

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for controlling a monitor photo diode (PD) of an optical pickup system monitors an optical power signal output for writing data on or reading data from a disk. The apparatus includes a comparator which compares a voltage signal corresponding to the optical power signal output from the LD with a predetermined reference voltage signal, and a gain selector which selectively issues a gain output from the comparator depending on the type of the optical power signal output from the LD.